

Poetic Devices

Play with the SOUNDS of words

Rhyme: word endings that sound alike including at least the final vowel sound.

Ex. Time, slime, mime

Rhythm: a regular pattern of accented syllables.

Ex. i THOUGHT i SAW a PUSsyCAT.

Repetition: The recurrence of words and phrases for effect.

Ex. I was so so so so glad.

Alliteration: repeated consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

Ex. Fast and furious.

Assonance: repeated vowel sounds.

Ex. He's a bruisin' loser.

Onomatopoeia: words that sound like their meanings.

Ex. Swoosh, Zip, Gurgle

Play with the MEANINGS of words

Simile: a comparison using "like" or "as."

Ex. He's as fleet as an antelope.

Metaphor: a direct comparison.

Ex. He's a superhero.

Personification: Treating a non-human thing with human characteristics.

Ex. The days crept by slowly, sorrowfully.

Hyperbole: Exaggeration used for effect.

Ex. He weighs a ton.

Symbol: an object that represents something else.

Ex. A small cross by the dangerous curve on the road reminded all of Johnny's death.

Contrast: closely arranging things with strikingly different characteristics

Ex. She was dark, sinister, and cruel; he was radiant, pleasant, and kind.

Paradox: a seeming contradiction.

Ex. The faster I go the behinder I get.

Irony: something said that is opposite its intended meaning.

Ex. Wow, thanks for the expensive gift! Did it come with a Fun Meal or the Burger King equivalent?

Play with the IMAGES of words

Imagery: the use of vivid language to generate ideas and/or evoke emotion via the five senses.

Examples:

- **Sight:** Smoke mysteriously puffed out from the clown's ears.
- **Sound:** Tom placed his ear tightly against the wall; he could hear a faint but distinct thump thump thump.
- **Touch:** The burlap wall covering scraped against the little boy's cheek.
- **Taste:** A salty tear ran onto her lips.
- **Smell:** Cinnamon! That's what wafted into his nostrils.